



Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting

Monday 17th April 2023

Adam – New in post covering James's secondment, I'm looking forward to working with you all over the next 5 months. Feel free to come and say hello at any point.

Quinquennial (QQ) works – Trustees have signed off on the budget regarding the £2m of central funding for a 2-year work plan for the castle. During 2020 and throughout 2021 there was minimal QQ work completed due to lockdown and contractor resources. This resulted in the Trust identifying the need for an increased conservation workload and output on the castle. A new 300 page conservation management plan has been drawn up by a company called keystone which gives us a wealth of information about the castle and the village. The plan of action is being drawn up by the building surveyor and curator in line with the QQ report, and we hope to commence delivery ASAP. Work will be carried out over 3 phases across 2-3 years.

May Fair – We have met with the Village Festivities Committee and are working through the logistics and planning of the return of the 'For the Village, by the Village' event on Monday 29th May 2023. This event will be open for everyone and as always if you are a family or individual that lives within the Corfe Parish catchment free entry will be given upon showing proof of address. To emphasis this, it is only those living at that address who can gain free entry – it is not for other members of the family that are visiting from elsewhere. They would be required to pay to enter or if a member of the National Trust show their membership card.

Goat Path – we are closely monitoring the condition of the top section of the goat path, after recent heavy rain fall there is a small section that has come away. We have called in a Civil Engineer to look at the area and are waiting for a report to come back. Katie Black – Rights of Way Officer – has been asked to look at the condition of the pathway. No change on this one

King Charles's Coronation event – Cllr Blinkhorn has visited the castle, plans have been agreed and the event is good to go on Sunday 7th for all residents that have a ticket.

Burngate stonecarving display in the castle – 29th April – 1st May. Burngate Stone carving centre will be holding talks and 'have a go' sessions in the castle on the first bank holiday weekend. At the end of the weekend the general public will have produced a carving that we are currently deciding on how and where to display.

Castle view visitors centre new heating system – Castle view visitor's centre has had a new air source heat pump installed as part of the Trust's drive towards Carbon net zero. The mains gas is due to be removed from the building in the near future. As part of the works, the insulation has been improved and single glazed doors have been replaced. The radiators are due to be replaced on the week of the 24th to improve their efficiency and therefore the efficiency of the system in general.

Magnetometry of North castle field – We recently had some magnetometry carried out in North Castle field. Jon Leyland, one of our countryside team wrote the follow brief report about the findings.

The magnetometry detects tiny variations in the magnetic field caused by buried structures, such as pits and ditches, where they have been filled in with material that has different magnetic properties from the surrounding soil.

Resistivity measures variations in resistance within the soil to a small electric current passed between two electrodes. The current is passed through water in the soil, so waterlogged features, such as ditches will have a low resistance, and walls and stone will have a high resistance.

Both plots show dark areas in the top corner of the field, which may be evidence of walls from a Romano-British settlement that Martin Papworth has found there, based on a test pit he dug in the 1990s. Interestingly, he found a piece of Roman pottery in a molehill on the day of the survey!

There is a very busy area on the top middle side of the magnetometry plot, which is presumably rubble and foundations from the house that once stood there, but that was demolished in the 1950s.

The results are not totally conclusive, but they do give us an idea that there are archaeological features buried there, without having to dig anything up.

